

REMARKS

The Examiner's reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the amendments above and comments which follow.

In the Examiner's final Office Action of December 3, 2008, the Examiner has changed the position taken, and has now rejected independent claim 13, and several of the dependent claims, under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Cook US Patent No. 6,675,975. Reconsideration is requested in view of the amendment of claim 13 above and comments which follow.

Claim 13 has been amended to include the feature of the screen having a rectilinear sub-frame including members that are internally reinforced by rigid metal having a hollow box cross-section.

The Examiner has asserted that it would have been obvious to adapt the teachings of Cook in order to meet essentially what is set forth in claim 13, because the Examiner has considered that reconfiguring Cook would have been within the knowledge of a person skilled in the art. The present applicant disagrees with the Examiner's position in this regard.

As discussed in the introductory portion of the specification of the present application, designing a suitable screen frame which has acceptable rigidity while also remaining sufficiently lightweight is a challenging task. The present invention is aimed at improving the rigidity of known screens, such as those disclosed in Cook, without significantly increasing the weight thereof. Therefore, it is not simply a matter of introducing more metallic structure to the frame, as that would have the consequence of having an unacceptable weight increase. Therefore, it is submitted that a person skilled in the art, after consulting Cook, would not find it to have been obvious to increase the weight of those frames, when it would not have even been obvious to him that the rigidity thereof needed any improving.

By configuring a sub-frame which is reinforced by rigid metal having a hollow box cross-section, not only is the resulting screen sufficiently rigid so that it will not whip when vibrated in use in a shaker, but it is also sufficiently strong to resist bending or deformation due to mesh wire tension (see page 4, lines 18-24 of the present application).

Additionally, amended independent claim 13 specifically requires that only some of the ribs are internally reinforced by rigid metal members. This provides the additional advantage that once the sub-frame has been reinforced in this manner, it has been found that only some of the octagonal ribs need to be reinforced as opposed to all of the ribs when wire reinforcing is employed.

Thus, by arranging for hollow box-section reinforcing members in the rectilinear sub-frame, the surprising and significant increase in rigidity is such to allow for some, if not all, of the weight increase involved to be recovered by forming one or more of the orthogonal ribs without metallic reinforcement. Therefore, by carrying out the present invention, a screen frame is produced which has significantly improved rigidity, while not necessarily incurring any increase in weight. Since increased weight is very detrimental to such screens, this is a significant advance.


It is therefore submitted that the application, as now claimed, distinguishes from the prior art and is allowable thereover. The Examiner's further and favorable reconsideration in that regard is urged.

Since the amendment above to claim 13 would have caused refusal of entry of the response if not filed as part of a Request for Continued Examination, to give the Examiner full latitude to consider the Response, the Response is being filed as part of a Request for Continued Examination, and the necessary Petition for Extension of Time is also being submitted herewith.

Further action by the Examiner is awaited.

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Respectfully submitted,


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